various levels from time to time The exports from the country have gone up from around Rs 10895 crores in 1985-86 to about Rs 27681 crores during 1989-90, is a clear indication of the active role played by the Councils along with other promotional agencies along with other promotional agencies.

Foreign Exchange crisis

60. PROF CHANDRESH P. THAKUR· Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to place a White Paper before Parliament on the state of Indian economy,

(b) what steps are being contemplated to overcome the foreign exchange crisis, and

(c) what are the new initiatives offered for tapping NRI funds for Indian development fund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) No, Sir

(b) With regard to the foreign exchange crisis the Government has initiated a number of measures which include promotion of exports and curtailment of inessential imports Attempts are also being made to augment foreign exchange earnings and capital inflow including accelerated disbursements of committed external assistance

(c) Government from time to time reviews the existing policies and schemes with a view to making NRI investment regime more attractive and less cumbersome State Bank of India has issued two series of NRI Bonds on non-repatriable basis. An inter departmental committee has been set up for speedy decision making on suggestions/issues pertaining to NRI investments

Gains to India in GATT Negotiations

61 PROF CHANDRESH P. THAKUR· Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what have been the gains to India in GATT negotiations in the last two years,

(b) what are the prospects ahead, and

(c) what new strategies are being adopted unilaterally or bilaterally in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL) (a) to (c) An assessment of the gains from the Urguay Round can only be made after the conclusion of the negotiations As the negotiations are still not concluded it would be premature to make an assessment just now. However, if our negotiating objectives are met we expect the following gains;

(i) Increased export earnings in Textiles and Clothing and agriculture sector;

(ii) Stability and predictability in international trade through amplification and improved multilateral rules;

(iii) Increase in remittance through re-location of our labour services in industrialized countries.

India has been consulting with its major trading partners and developing countries bilaterally and pluri-laterally to explore areas of commonality and to explain India's stand on various issues.

NABARD Schemes for Agricultural Development in North Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh

62 PROF. CHANDRESH P THAKUR· Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what plans NABARD has for development of infrastructure facility for agricultural development in North Bihar, North Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there are schemes for launching fisheries, poultry farming, horticulture and sericulture development programmes on a time bound basis in these areas, and

(c) what is the state of (a) project identification (b) financing (c) implementation in these cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been providing refinance facilities to Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Land Development Banks and State Cooperative Banks Refinance is provided for all viable schemes and project relating to Minor Irrigation, Land Development, Farm Mechanisation, Plantation, Horticulture, Poultry, Sheep, Piggery, Fisheries, Dairy Development, Storage and Market Yards, *Forestry, Gobar Gas Plants, Non-Farm* Sector activities and Integrated Rural Development Programme The financing of such activities by the credit institutions is a part of their normal lending on a continued basis.

The number of Schemes and the financial assistance given for the same by NABARD during the year 1989-90 in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh in respect of fisheries, poultry farming and plantation/horticulture is given as under:—

Statement showing number of schemes financed and the amount disbursed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during the year 1989-90 in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh under Fisheries, Poultry/Sheep/Piggery and Plantation/horticulture

Activities	No of Schemes financed			Amount disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)		
	Bihar	West Bengal	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	West Bengal	Uttar Pradesh
(i) Fisheries . . .	6	24	53	4	122	80
(ii) Poultry/Sheep /Piggery	3	13	59	6	53	69
(iii) Plantation/Horticulture (including sericulture)	3	34	52	32	721	180

Opening of Branches of Banks in Bihar

63 PROF CHANDRESH P THAKUR Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) what is the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank during the last five years for opening branches of banks in Bihar,

(b) what has been the progress of opening of these branches bank-wise and year-wise,

(c) whether there is any shortfall in meeting the target, and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Under the previous Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allotted 651 centres to banks for opening branches at rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan centres The banks have opened branches at 450 centres The banks could not open the branches at the remaining centres mainly due to lack of infrastructural facilities at the allotted centres RBI has now extended the validity period for pending licences upto 31-3-1991.